

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 855 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY CONKLIN, BIZZARRO, BROOKS, BURNS, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
DELLOSO, DONATUCCI, FREEMAN, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, KIM, KINSEY,
LONGIETTI, MARKOSEK, MARSHALL, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT,
NEILSON, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, STAATS AND YOUNGBLOOD,
MAY 4, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON GAMING OVERSIGHT, MAY 4, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2020 as "Problem Gambling
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and recognizing the month of
3 March 2020 as "National Problem Gambling Awareness Month."

4 WHEREAS, Individuals across this country and in this
5 Commonwealth enjoy the recreational aspects of legalized
6 gambling; and

7 WHEREAS, For some individuals and families, gambling becomes
8 an issue affecting and disrupting their lives; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Council on Problem Gambling reports
10 that 2% to 3% of the United States population, or between 6
11 million and 9 million Americans, will have a gambling problem in
12 any given year; and

13 WHEREAS, Problem gambling is a public health issue affecting
14 individuals of all ages, races and ethnic backgrounds in every
15 community; and

16 WHEREAS, Gambling has a significant societal and economic
17 cost; and

1 WHEREAS, Treatment for problem gambling is effective in
2 minimizing the harm to individuals, families and society; and

3 WHEREAS, Only a limited number of individuals affected by
4 problem gambling seek treatment options and utilize existing
5 treatment programs; and

6 WHEREAS, Numerous individuals, professionals and
7 organizations have dedicated their efforts to public awareness
8 of problem gambling and the availability and effectiveness of
9 treatment; and

10 WHEREAS, The proliferation of unregulated slot machine-like
11 devices in nearly every community across this Commonwealth,
12 especially in vulnerable communities, is contributing to
13 gambling addiction; and

14 WHEREAS, Unregulated gambling devices demand increased focus
15 on compulsive and problem gambling awareness and the education
16 of residents of this Commonwealth on gambling addiction as a
17 public health issue, which affects Pennsylvanians of all ages
18 and backgrounds; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Council on Problem Gambling is
20 coordinating the annual "National Problem Gambling Awareness
21 Month" campaign in March to educate the public about the impact
22 of problem gambling and the availability of treatment options;
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 month of March 2020 as "Problem Gambling Awareness Month" in
26 Pennsylvania and recognize the month of March 2020 as "National
27 Problem Gambling Awareness Month"; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
29 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to continue its outreach
30 efforts and work with the Pennsylvania gaming industry to

1 develop and implement problem-gambling programs and further
2 promote community-based programs in this Commonwealth; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
5 Department of Health, in conjunction with the Department of Drug
6 and Alcohol Programs, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and
7 individuals, professionals and organizations dedicated to public
8 awareness and treatment of problem gambling, to jointly create,
9 develop and promote public awareness campaigns regarding the
10 recognition and prevention of problem gambling; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that
13 problem gambling is a public health issue impacting residents in
14 this Commonwealth in a harmful way which must be addressed in a
15 reasonable and responsible manner; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
17 residents of this Commonwealth to learn more about problem
18 gambling and the programs available to help individuals and
19 their families who have been adversely affected by this issue.